

ABSTRACT

SYSTEM, METHOD, AND APPARATUS FOR IMPROVED PACKAGING OF DATA TAPE CARTRIDGES

[0025] A plastic cartridge holder for restraining and protecting data tape cartridges during shipping has individual cartridge slots with corrugated padding between adjacent slots and on the sides of the slots to decouple the cartridges from virtually any shock event. The cartridges do not separate or fall apart from each other when the external bundling material or shrink-wrapping is removed. The corrugations and slots hold the cartridges in place with a retention force that is firm yet comfortable for the user to overcome. The slots on the beveled corners allow individual cartridge actuation of access doors for inspection of the tape leader pins before the cartridges are removed. The opposite side of the holder has a full, cartridge-length access to the individual slots. The holder also has an access slot to allow the user to manually push all of the cartridges out of the holder simultaneously.